

METHOD AND BASE STATION FOR ALLOCATING PSEUDO NOISE CODE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method and base station for allocating pseudo noise (PN) codes on a downward transmission channel which carries spread spectrum signals for code division multiple access (CDMA) from a base station
10 to a plurality of mobile stations.

2. Description of the Prior Art

The spread spectrum signals modulated by the PN codes properly allocated to the mobile stations are multiplexed and
15 transmitted from the base station to the mobile stations. Therefore, the transmission signals are easily synchronized, because the transmission signals are transmitted simultaneously onto the downward direction. Further, the interference between the transmission signals can be
20 suppressed by using the orthogonal code.

However, it difficult to synchronize the signals from one base station with the signals from the other base station. Therefore, the scramble code such as Gold code or a part thereof are used in addition to the orthogonal code.

25 A conventional transmitter of the base station is shown in Figure 17. In spread adder unit SPU as shown in Figure 17, transmission signal to mobile station S_i (" i " = 1 to n) is multiplied by orthogonal code $C_{o,i}$ in multiplier 001. Then, the outputs from multipliers 001 are added in adder 002.

Further, the output from adder 002 is multiplied by scramble code Cs in multiplier 001 in order to obtain combined signal .

Combined signal is modulated in modulator 003 and transmitted from antenna 004 to the mobile stations. When
5 all the base stations employ the transmitter as shown in Figure 17, the interference between the signals from the base stations are randomized, or in other words, suppressed.

It must be avoided that numerous codes are used unnecessarily, because the number of the orthogonal codes
10 are limited. However, there are several cases of the unnecessary consumption of code in CDMA system.

The code consumption is increased, when a plurality of the base stations transmit the identical signals towards one mobile station in the soft hand-over (SHO).

15 The code consumption is also increased, when the base station intends to control many mobile stations by cutting off the communication with a mobile station whose signal goes through silent period.

Further, the code consumption is increased, when inter-
20 cellular interference is weakened due to many obstacles.

Therefore, when the number of the mobile stations is greater than the number of the orthogonal codes in a base station, the base station has to use a plurality of the scramble codes.

25 A conventional transmitter of the base station which employs "k" scramble codes is shown in Figure 18. Spread adder unit SPU-i ($i = 1$ to k) outputs combined spread signal Sd-j on the basis of transmission signal Si,nj, orthogonal code Co, nj, and scramble code Cs,i. Here, signal Si,nj is a signal

which is transmitted by a "nj"-th mobile station with
scramble code "j". Further, number "nj" is the number of the
orthogonal codes generated by j-th scramble code $C_{s,j}$.
Transmission signal $S_{i,nj}$ may contain control signal which
5 is commonly used. Combined spread signals S_{d-i} (for $i = 1$ to
 k) are added in adder 002. The output from adder 002 are
modulated by modulator 003. Antenna 004 transmits the
output of modulator 003 towards the mobile stations.

Spread adder unit SPU-j outputs combined spread
10 spectrum signal S_{d-j} on the basis of transmission signal $S_{j,h}$.
Here, "h" is an ordinal number of orthogonal code $C_{o,h}$, and
 $C_{s,j}$ is a scramble code. Combined spread spectrum signal
 S_{d-1} , S_{d-2} , ..., and S_{d-k} are added in adder 002. The output
from adder 002 are fed into modulator 003 to be transmitted
15 from antenna 004 towards the mobile stations.

An example of a relation of signal to interference noise
ratio (SINR) vs. combined code is shown in Figure 19. The
combined code is expressed, for example, as $(2, n_2)$, where "2"
is an ordinal number of scramble code and "n2" is an ordinal
20 number of orthogonal code. The SINR as shown in Figure 19
is low for every combined code, when all the combined codes
are used randomly or with equal frequency in use.

When a plurality of the scramble codes are used
simultaneously, the mobile station suffers interference due to
25 signals with other scramble codes for other stations. Thus,
quality of communication channel is degraded, because the
interference between different scramble codes is greater than
that between the identical scramble codes.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a code allocation method which suppresses the interference between
5 the spread spectrum signals and decreases the number of codes.

In the code allocation method of the present invention, the scramble codes and the orthogonal codes are arranged in the order of priority, and the codes for the mobile stations are
10 allocated in that priority order. The code used by a mobile station which ends or stops temporarily its call is re-allocated to other mobile station which uses the lowest priority code.

Further, in the present invention, higher priority codes are allocated for the communication under higher service quality
15 or higher signal quality. The higher priority codes may be allocated in the order of the lower quality.

According to the present invention, the interference is suppressed, because the number of the scramble codes is minimized. Further, the mobile station which is given the
20 higher priority codes receives smaller interference from the mobile stations which use the lower priority codes.

Further, according to the present invention, the code consumption is suppressed, due to the re-allocation at the time of the end of call or the temporal stop of call.

25 Furthermore, according to the present invention, the communication quality becomes uniform and the code consumption or the number of codes is minimized, because the higher priority codes are allocated in the order of the higher or lower quality which is requested or received by the

mobile station.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 5 Figure 1 is a block diagram of the base station which employs the method for allocating pseudo random (PN) codes of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a flow chart of PN code allocation of the first embodiment of the present invention.

- 10 Figure 3 is a flow chart of PN code allocation of the second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is an example of priority matrix defined by orthogonal code and scramble code in the second embodiment.

- 15 Figure 5 is a flow chart of PN code allocation of the third embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a graph of the rate of using the orthogonal code vs. the scramble code in the third embodiment.

- 20 Figure 7 is a graph of the SINR (signal to interference noise ratio) vs. the combined code in the third embodiment.

Figure 8A is other example of code allocation in the second embodiment.

Figure 8B is an example of the priority matrix based on the other example as shown in Figure 8A.

- 25 Figure 9A is another example of code allocation in the second embodiment.

Figure 9B is an example of the priority matrix based on the another example as shown in Figure 9A.

Figure 10A is still another example of code allocation in the

second embodiment.

Figure 10B is an example of the priority matrix based on the still another example as shown in Figure 10A.

Figure 11 is a flow chart of PN code allocation of the
5 fourth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 12 is an example of the priority matrix in the fourth embodiment.

Figure 13 is a graph of the quantity of service requests vs. the combined code in the fourth embodiment.

10 Figure 14 is a flow chart of PN code allocation of the fifth embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 15 is an example of the priority matrix in the fifth embodiment.

Figure 16 is a graph of transmission quality vs. combined
15 code in the fifth embodiment.

Figure 17 is a conventional base station using a single scramble code.

Figure 18 is a conventional base station using a plurality of scramble codes.

20 Figure 19 is SINR of transmission signals received by mobile stations connected with the conventional base station.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

25 [First Mode of Embodiment]

In the first mode of embodiment of the present invention, a first set including a plurality of first codes and a second set including one or more second codes. Here, the first codes are the orthogonal codes, while the second codes are the scramble

codes such as Gold codes or a part thereof.

Further, combined codes are generated by multiplying the first codes by one of the second codes. Then, the combined codes are allocated to the mobile stations, or in other words,
5 the combined codes are allocated to the spread spectrum signal to the mobile stations.

When the number of the combined codes are insufficient, new combined codes are generated by selecting other second code.

10 In the following, the first embodiment is explained, referring to Figures 1 and 2.

The transmitter of the base station which uses "k" scramble codes as shown in Figure 1 is the same as that as shown in Figure 18.

15 The transmitter of the first embodiment of the present invention comprises spread adder unit SPU-i, adder 002, modulator 003, and antenna 004.

Spread adder unit SPU-i outputs combined spread signal S_{d-j} on the basis of transmission signal $S_{i,nj}$, orthogonal code $C_{o,nj}$, and scramble code $C_{s,i}$. Here, signal $S_{i,nj}$ is a signal
20 which is transmitted by a "nj"-th mobile station with scramble code "j". Further, "nj" is the number of the orthogonal codes generated by j-th scramble code $C_{s,j}$. Transmission signal $S_{i,nj}$ may contain control signal which
25 is commonly used.

Combined spread signals S_{d-i} (for $i = 1$ to k) are added in adder 002.

The output from adder 002 are modulated by modulator 003.

Antenna 004 transmits the output of modulator 003 towards the mobile stations.

Next, the operation of the first embodiment is explained, referring to Figures 1 and 2.

- 5 The combined codes are allocated to the mobile stations in due order of SPU1, SPU2, ..., SPUk.

At first, signal $S_{1,nj}$ received by the base station is inputted into SPU-1. Then, $S_{1,nj}$ is allocated to orthogonal code $C_{o,nj}$, in other words, a combined code which is
10 generated by the multiplication of the first codes by one of the second code. When the combined codes become insufficient, the signal received by the base station is inputted into SPU-2.

Similarly, when all the combined codes of SPU1 and SPU2
15 are used, the combined codes become insufficient. In this case, the received signal is inputted into SPU-3. These procedures are repeated up to SPU-k.

A flow chart for the code allocation is shown in Figure 2.

At step 100, the base station inspects whether there is any
20 call-out or request for resuming transmission. Step 100 is followed by step 101, when there is a call-out or request for resuming transmission. Step 100 is followed by step 108, when there is neither any call-out nor request for resuming transmission..

25 At step 101, the number of the object mobile station is set up in variable ma . Further, "j" is set up to be 1 (unity) at step 102. Next, at step 103, the base station inspects whether or not all the combined codes of SPU-j are used. The inspection is executed, beginning from $n=1$, in the order of n of C_o , n .

When all the combined codes of all SPU-j are used, it is inspected whether or not "j" is "k". When "j" is not "k", "j" is replaced by "(j+1)" at step 105, and then step 103 is executed again. On the contrary, when "j" is equal to "k", the allocation
5 is ended at step 113.

Then, when a combined code which is left unused is found at step 103, the unused combined code is allocated at step 106 to the mobile station of which ordinal number is "ma". At the same time, the combined code allocated to the mobile station
10 at step 106 is transmitted at step 107 from the base station to the mobile station. Step 107 is followed by step 108.

At step 108, the base station inspects whether there is any mobile station which has finished, or stopped temporarily the call. When the base station find out such a mobile station, the
15 identity number of the mobile station is set up in variable "mt" at step 109.

At step 110, variable "ml" is set up to be an identifier of such a mobile station which is connected with SPU-j with maximum "j" at present, and uses the orthogonal code Co, n
20 with maximum "n". At step 111, the combined code allocated to mobile station "ml" is re-placed by the combined code allocated to mobile station "mt". The new allocation information is transmitted at step 112 from the base station towards mobile stations "mt" and "ml". Step 100 executed
25 again after step 112.

The re-allocation may not be executed, when the ordinal number "j" of the scramble code of the mobile station which has ended or stopped temporarily the call is equal to the maximum number at present.

When there is not any mobile station which ends or temporarily stops the call at step 108, step 100 follows step 108.

The allocation method of the first embodiment is applied
5 not only to the base station, but also to the control station.

[Second Mode of Embodiment]

Similarly to the first embodiment, the PN code allocation method of the second mode of embodiment of the present invention utilizes a first set of a plurality of first codes and a
10 second set of one or more second codes, where the first codes are orthogonal codes and the second codes are scramble codes such as Gold codes or a part of them.

Then, combined codes are generated by multiplying the first codes by one or more second codes.

15 Further, the combined codes of the second embodiment are provided with priority orders. The transmission signal from the base station to the mobile stations is modulated by that combined code, according to the spectrum spread method.

20 The priority order of the combined codes may be the same order of priority of the second codes.

Similarly, the priority order of the combined codes may be the same order of priority of the first codes.

In the following, the allocation method of the second
25 embodiment is explained, referring to Figures 1 and 3. The block diagram of the transmitter of the second embodiment is the same as shown in Figure 1. However, the operation of the second embodiment is different.

A flow chart for the allocation executed by the base station

is shown in Figure 3.

At step 200, the base station determines whether there is any new call from the mobile station, or any request for resuming the transmission. Step 200 is followed by step 201,
5 when there is a new call, or a request, while step 200 is followed by step 208, when there is neither call, nor request.

At step 201, an identifier is set up in variable "ma". Further, at step 202, the priority of the combined signature or the combined code is set up. Furthermore, at step 203,
10 priority variable p is set up to be 1 (unity: highest priority).

Step 205 is a step for determining whether or not the combined code or the third code with priority p is being used. When it is being used, priority p is replaced by (p+1) at step 204. Then, step 204 is followed by step 205 again.

15 When it is not being used, the combined code with priority p allocated to the mobile station with variable "ma" at step 206. The allocated combined code is notified to the mobile station ma at step 207. Then, step 207 is followed by step 208.

At step 208, the base station determines whether any of
20 the mobile station has ended the call or has stopped the call temporarily. When there is an end of cal, or a temporal stop of call in a mobile station, the identifier of the mobile station is set up in variable "mt" at step 209.

At step 210, an identifier is set up for a mobile station with
25 variable "ml" which uses the lowest priority code. At step 211, the combined code is exchanged between mobile station "ml" and mobile station "mt". The reallocation is notified from the base station to mobile stations "ml" and "mt" at step 212. Then, step 212 is followed by step 200.

The reallocation may not be executed at step 211, when the ordinal number "j" of the scramble code of the mobile station is equal to the maximum number.

Step 208 is followed by step 200, when there in neither end
5 of call nor temporal stop of call.

An example of priority of the combined code is shown in Figure 4.

The matrix elements are the priorities in a matrix defined by ordinal numbers of the orthogonal code and scramble code.
10 The smaller the ordinal number of scramble code is, the higher the priority is. Further, the smaller the ordinal number of the orthogonal code is, the higher the priority in the same scramble code.

The highest priority may be given to the commonly used
15 control signal.

The allocation method of the second embodiment is applied not only to the base station, but also to the control station.

Other example of priority of the combined code which decided at step 202 as shown in Figure 3 for the second
20 embodiment is shown in Figures 8A and 8B. The number of the identical scramble codes which are used simultaneously, or in other words, the number of relevant mobile stations which use the identical scramble code, is exemplified at an arbitrary time in Figure 8A. Further, a priority matrix
25 defined by the orthogonal code and scramble code is exemplified in Figure 8B. The scramble codes allocated to the commonly used control signal may be excluded, when the number of the identical scramble code simultaneously used is counted. The greater the number as shown in Figure 8A of

the scramble code simultaneously used is, the higher the priority of the scramble code is, as shown in Figure 8B. Further, the smaller the ordinal number of the orthogonal code is, the greater the priority of the orthogonal code is, for the same scramble code, as shown in Figure 8B.

Thus, the code consumption is minimized, because only specified scramble codes are used always frequently, as shown in Figures 8A and 8B.

Another example of priority of the combined code which decided at step 202 as shown in Figure 3 for the second embodiment is shown in Figures 9A and 9B. The consumption of electric power simultaneously used is shown in Figure 9A at an arbitrary time for each scramble code, while a priority matrix defined by the orthogonal code and scramble code is shown in Figure 9B. The greater the power consumption as shown in Figure 9A is, the higher the priority of the scramble code is, as shown in Figure 9B. Further, the smaller the ordinal number of the orthogonal code is, the greater the priority of the orthogonal code is, for the same scramble code, as shown in Figure 9B.

Thus, the code consumption is minimized, because only specified scramble codes are used always frequently, as shown in Figures 9A and 9B.

Still another example of priority of the combined code which decided at step 202 as shown in Figure 3 for the second embodiment is shown in Figures 10A and 10B. The average electric power consumed for transmitting the signal with the allocated scramble code is shown in Figure 10A at an arbitrary time for each scramble code, while a priority matrix

defined by the orthogonal code and scramble code is shown in Figure 10B. The scramble codes allocated to the commonly used control signal may be excluded, when the average power consumption is calculated, because the commonly used control signal is transmitted under fixed electric power. The smaller the average power consumption as shown in Figure 10A is, the higher the priority of the scramble code is, as shown in Figure 10B. Further, the smaller the ordinal number of the orthogonal code is, the greater the priority of the orthogonal code is, for the same scramble code, as shown in Figure 9B. Furthermore, the priorities of the scramble codes which are not used at all are made lower than those which are being used.

Thus, the code consumption is minimized, because only specified scramble codes are used always frequently, as shown in Figures 10A and 10B.

[Third Mode of Embodiment]

Similarly to the first and second second embodiment, the PN code allocation method of the third mode of embodiment of the present invention utilizes a set including a plurality of first codes and a second set of one or more second codes, where the first codes are orthogonal codes and the second codes are scramble codes such as Gold codes or a part of them.

In the third embodiment, "M" new sets are generated by combining the first codes with "M" second codes. The PN code allocation is executed by using (M-1) new sets.

In the following, the allocation method of the third embodiment is explained, referring to Figures 1 and 5. The

block diagram of the transmitter of the third embodiment is the same as shown in Figure 1. However, the operation of the third embodiment is different.

A flow chart for the allocation executed by the base station
5 is shown in Figure 5.

At step 501, the base station grasps the total number "N" of codes used by all the mobile stations connected with the base station."N" may exceed the total number of mobile stations, because one mobile station may use a plurality of codes.

10 At step 502, the necessary number "M" of the second codes is calculated, Here,

$$M = \text{int}(N/S) + 1$$

,where $\text{int}(x) = n$ for $x = n + \alpha$ (n :integer, $0 < \alpha < 1$), and S is the total number of the orthogonal codes.

15 At step 503, "M" sets of scramble codes are generated, by multiplying the first codes by "M" second codes.

At step 504, all the 1-st set to the (M-1)-th set of the generated scramble codes are allocated to the transmission signals. The M-th set of scramble codes may be used, if
20 necessary. In the third embodiment of the present invention, any other scramble codes are not used at all, even if they are available.

Therefore, the rate of using the orthogonal codes is "1" (unity) for the ordinal number of scramble code smaller or
25 equal to (M-1), as shown in Figure 6.

The allocation method of the second embodiment is applied not only to the base station, but also to the control station.

The relation between SINR and the combined code is shown in Figure 7, under the rate of using as shown in Figure

6. The combined code (2,8) as shown in Figure 7, for example, is a code generated by combining the scramble code 2 and the orthogonal code 8. The SINR for the combined code smaller than or equal to $(M-1)$ is almost constant, while The SINR
5 for the combined code greater than or equal to M becomes small.

The average SINR as shown in Figure 7 is greater than that as shown in Figure 19, because the interference between the scramble codes is minimized due to the minimized
10 number of the scramble codes.

The higher priority scramble codes are allocated to the mobile station in accordance with the priority in the second embodiment, as shown in Figure 7. Therefore, the interference due to the lower priority codes is decreased.

15 Further, the code consumption is suppressed, due to the re-allocation at the end of call or the temporal stop of call.

[Fourth Mode of Embodiment]

In the following, the allocation method of the fourth embodiment is explained, referring to Figures 1, 11 and 12.

20 The block diagram of the transmitter of the fourth embodiment is the same as shown in Figure 1. However, the operation of the second embodiment is different.

A flow chart for the allocation executed by the base station is shown in Figure 11. Further, an example of the
25 priority matrix is shown in Figure 12.

Firstly, the flow chart as shown in Figure 11 is explained. It is assumed that the priority is already given in accordance with the second embodiment. At step 300, the base station determines whether there is any change in a set of signals

transmitted by itself. Step 300 is followed by step 301, when there is a change, while step 300 is recovered, when there is not any change.

At step 301, the base station grasps the quantity of the
5 service requests from all the mobile stations. Then, at step 302, higher priorities are given to the transmission signals with higher or lower quantities of the service requests. Here, the service request may be a transmission speed, an error rate of transmission, or these functions. At step 303, the re-
10 allocation of code is notified to the relevant mobile stations. Step 303 is followed by step 300 again.

An example of the priority matrix is shown in Figure 12. The matrix elements are the priorities in a matrix defined by ordinal numbers of the orthogonal code and scramble code.
15 The smaller the ordinal number of scramble code is, the higher the priority is. Further, the smaller the ordinal number of the orthogonal code is, the higher the priority in the same scramble code.

The quantity of the service requests is shown in Figure 13.
20 The lower the ordinal numbers of the scramble codes and orthogonal codes are, the greater the quantity of the service requests of the transmission signals. Thus, the code consumption is minimized, because the scramble codes with lower ordinal numbers are used more frequently, as shown in
25 Figures 13. Furthermore, the quantities of the service requests are kept almost constant for the same scramble code.

The allocation method of the second embodiment is applied not only to the base station, but also to the control station.

[Fifth Mode of Embodiment]

In the following, the allocation method of the fifth embodiment is explained, referring to Figures 1, 14 and 15. The block diagram of the transmitter of the fifth embodiment
5 is the same as shown in Figure 1. However, the operation of the second embodiment is different.

A flow chart for the allocation executed by the base station is shown in Figure 14. Further, an example of the priority matrix is shown in Figure 15.

10 Firstly, the flow chart as shown in Figure 14 is explained. It is assumed that the priority is already given in accordance with the second embodiment. At step 400, the base station determines whether there is any change in a set of signals transmitted by itself. Step 400 is followed by step 401, when
15 there is a change, while step 400 is recovered, when there is not any change.

At step 401, the base station grasps the transmission quality. Then, at step 402, higher priorities are given to the transmission signals with higher or lower transmission
20 qualities. Here, the transmission quality may be interference observed by the mobile station, electric power of commonly used control signal received by the mobile station, SINR at the mobile station. These transmission qualities are assumed to be transmitted from the mobile station through the control
25 channel to the base station.

For example, the SINR of a mobile station may be calculated by obtaining the received electric power EP1 of the commonly used control signal transmitted from the base station which is connected with the mobile station, and by

obtaining the received electric power EP2 of the commonly used control signal transmitted from the base station which is not connected with the mobile base station. The SINR is the ratio (EP1/EP2).

- 5 At step 403, the re-allocation of code is notified to the relevant mobile stations. Step 403 is followed by step 400 again.

 An example of the priority matrix is shown in Figure 14. The matrix elements are the priorities in a matrix defined by
10 ordinal numbers of the orthogonal code and scramble code. The smaller the ordinal number of scramble code is, the higher its priority is. Further, the smaller the ordinal number of the orthogonal code is, the higher the priority of the orthogonal code in the same scramble code.

- 15 The transmission quality is shown in Figure 16. The lower the ordinal numbers of the scramble codes and orthogonal codes are, the greater the transmission quality of the transmission signal is. Thus, the code consumption is minimized, because the scramble codes with lower ordinal
20 numbers are used more frequently, as shown in Figures 16. Furthermore, the transmission qualities are kept almost constant for the same scramble code.

 The allocation method of the second embodiment is applied not only to the base station, but also to the control station.

25